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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,687	02/16/2001	Rocky Stewart	BEAS-01033US3 SRM/KFK	3903
23910 7590 12/21/2006 FLIESLER MEYER LLP 650 CALIFORNIA STREET 14TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108			EXAMINER BATURAY, ALICIA	
			ART UNIT 2155	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/21/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,687

Applicant(s)

STEWART ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Baturay

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08222006, 11222006, 1292006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 2 October 2006.
2. Claims 1 and 11 were amended.
3. Claim 19 and 23 was cancelled.
4. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

5. The rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office Action mailed on 30 March 2006. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 and 20-22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and the old rejection maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. 6,161,149) and further in view of Balabanovic (U.S. 6,624,826).

Achacoso teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system for communicating information among members of a discussion group using a central agent. The

central agent receives and stores messages, causing discussions to be maintained (see Abstract).

8. With respect to claim 1, Achacoso teaches a message routing mechanism for a collaboration system that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols, comprising:

A central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a conversation is a collective set of said messages, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary, and which may be used by a participant to send and receive messages according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow used by that participant, a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to use their own business protocol vocabulary to participate in the conversation and to specify a routing

Art Unit: 2155

information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is specified by the participant in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

9. Claims 11 and 23 do not teach or define any new limitations above claim 1 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

10. Claims 2-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. 6,640,241).

11. With respect to claim 2, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages

between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 36-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

12. With respect to claim 3, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 2, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may

be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where the routing criteria is specified in a message overhead (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

13. With respect to claim 4, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 3, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism where the collaboration hub includes a repository of participant and conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

14. With respect to claim 5, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation

(Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message router.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message router. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

15. With respect to claim 6, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing

Art Unit: 2155

information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

16. With respect to claim 7, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging bridge.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space (Ozzie, col. 20, lines 38-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging bridge. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

17. With respect to claim 8, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging gateway.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 38-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging gateway. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

Art Unit: 2155

18. With respect to claim 9, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 8, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches the message routing mechanism where the business messaging system is any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

19. With respect to claim 10, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

Art Unit: 2155

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging proxy.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device (Ozzie, col. 21, lines 35-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging proxy. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

20. With respect to claim 21, Achacoso teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system, that supports conversations between participants over multiple business protocols comprising:

A collaboration hub hosting a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); where a conversation is a collective set of the messages, and where each of the collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20) and where each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to use a different business protocol, and which may be used by a participant to participate in the conversation (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), a set of messages that may be accessed by the participants using any of a plurality of business protocols (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24), and a messaging protocol that allows each participant to specify a routing information and business protocol used by that participant for a given conversation (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), where the business protocol is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participant to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message router and filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the message routing mechanism including a message router that routes a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31) and a message filter that filters a message (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message router and filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

Art Unit: 2155

21. Claims 12-18, 20 and 22 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 2-10 and 21 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed 2 October 2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

23. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states "Applicant respectfully submits that the above descriptions of both Achacoso and Balabanovic appears to suggest that, in both cases the messages are sent via an email, together with an embedded link... This suggests that a manual intervention by a human operator is required to retrieve to retrieve the ultimate message. However in the embodiment defined by Claim 1, as currently amended, the central collaboration hub is capable of *automatically* receiving and sending messages between participants as part of a conversation between the participants."

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits the teachings of *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) (Appellant argued that claims to a permanent mold casting apparatus for molding trunk pistons were allowable over the prior art because the claimed invention combined "old permanent-mold structures together with a timer and solenoid which automatically actuates the known pressure valve system to release the inner core after a predetermined time has elapsed." The court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.). See MPEP § 2144.04 (III).

24. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states “Additionally, it appears from the above description that Balabanovic does not teach that the routing information is specified by the participant in a header of the messaging protocol. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define that the *routing information is specified by the participant in a header* of the messaging protocol.”

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Balabanovic teaches wherein the routing information is specified by the participant in a header of the messaging protocol (Once the multimedia chronicle is created, user “A” may send the multimedia chronicle to another user via electronic mail. In one embodiment, in order to send the multimedia chronicle to another user, an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle (such as that shown in Fig. 3B) is created. The XML representation references the various electronic documents and audio clips by way of URL addresses that point to their stored location(s). In one embodiment, the contents of a multimedia chronicle may be transferred to and stored on a designated web server – see Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

25. ***Applicant Argues:*** Applicant states “Furthermore, in the Office Action, it was submitted that both Achacoso and Balabanovic describe features associated with business protocols. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the protocols described therein (such as the hypertext transfer protocol) differ substantially from the B2B business protocols that are the

Art Unit: 2155

subject of Claim 1, examples of which include cXML, BizTalk, and Rosetta Net. To more clearly differentiate this, Claim 1 has been amended to define that each of the plurality of business protocol handlers are configured to recognize a *different business protocol vocabulary*, and may be used by a participant to send and receive messages according to the particular *business protocol vocabulary and process flow used by the participant.*”

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., examples of which include cXML, BizTalk, and RosettaNet) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The examiner additionally submits that Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary (In one embodiment, upon accessing the URL containing the XML representation, the XML representation is parsed to create and play the message if user “B” has an appropriate application to view the XML representation. In another embodiment...the message may alternatively be displayed as a standard HTML-based web page – see Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

Art Unit: 2155

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

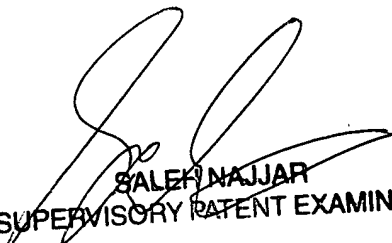
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at 7:30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Art Unit: 2155

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay
December 12, 2006



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER